



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fraudulent Contractor Must Pay \$40,000 to the Department of Labor and Industry

(Helena, MT) The Department of Labor and Industry has issued the largest penalty ever imposed on a contractor in Montana for violating the contractor registration statutes. Contractor John Mulinski and his company Sunrise Quality Construction must pay the Department \$40,000 representing \$5,000 for each of the eight violations proven in this case.

“This contractor had a clear pattern of failing to give a true address for his business and taking substantial down payments only to leave home owners with partially completed roofing projects,” said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. “We want to send a clear message that this type of practice will not be tolerated in the state of Montana.”

Initial complaints were brought against Mulinski, who was a registered contractor with the State, for failing to provide a true address while engaging in contracting violating Montana Code Annotated 39-9-301(2). During the Department’s investigation it was determined that at no time material to the case was Mulinski or Sunrise Quality Construction ever located or in any way affiliated with the address of 5893 or 5895 N. Highway 93, Whitefish, MT. Mulinski repeatedly represented to each of the home owners in his contracts that Sunrise Quality Construction was located at either address; thus making it impossible for the home owners to track him down once he left the job unfinished.

The Independent Contractor Unit of the Department of Labor and Industry wants to remind the homeowners to follow this checklist when working with registered contractors:

- Verify the contractor is registered with the state of Montana
- Check for proper insurance (liability, workers’ compensation)
- Call references and look at past projects
- Have a contract detailing every aspect of the project including how and when paid
- Communicate, assure each of you have a complete understand of expectations
- Visually inspect each part of the project

For more information log onto www.mtcontractor.com or call 406-444-7734.

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